PREFACE

Success on the battlefield demands a thorough understanding of enemy capabilities, tactics, and intent. It also requires leadership and decisive action. It is impossible to predict when or where nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) weapons may be used on future battlefields, however, we must accept the fact that many of our potential enemies have an NBC capability and intend to use NBC weapons.

When confronted with a NBC environment, unit leaders face major decisions. They must be able to define decontamination, smoke, and NBC reconnaissance requirements and request the support required to support the mission. This also includes providing direction for use of these assets. The chemical infrastructure provides experts at all levels of command to develop plans and advise commanders on the hazards associated with operating in a NBC environment. These experts also advise commanders on the employment of chemical assets to enhance the supported unit's survivability and combat power. Also, commanders have combat support units for detection, identification, and decontamination of NBC contamination. Smoke unit assets also are available to enhance the supported unit's survivability and combat power.

This field manual prescribes the doctrine for chemical staff sections and unit employment. It prescribes the fundamental principles for chemical staff functions, command and control of chemical units, and chemical unit employment. These principles are authoritative but require judgment in their application. For detailed procedures for chemical unit operations and NBC defense measures, see the following manuals: FM 3-3, FM 3-3-1, FM 3-4, FM 3-5, FM (J) 3-6, FM 3-18, FM 3-19, FM 3-50, and FM 3-100.

FM 3-101 is intended for chemical staff members and units plus battalion commanders and staff personnel. It is the foundation for service school instruction on chemical unit organization and operation.

Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.

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INTRODUCTION

Chemical staffs and units provide necessary support to units. The chemical staffs provide expertise on NBC defense, employment of chemical units, and smoke and flame operations. Chemical units provide equipment decontamination support, generate large-area smoke screens, and detect and identify NBC agents.

The employment and task organization of chemical units will be dictated by mission, enemy, terrain, troops, and time available (METT-T). Each mission and situation must be analyzed to determine the optimum scheme of support. There are no "cookie cutter" approaches to developing the scheme of support and the command and support relationships of the supporting chemical units. Chapter 2 discusses general concepts for the employment of chemical units on the battlefield. Chapter 3 provides information on chemical unit planning. Chapter 4 talks about the various command and support relationships and how command and control is exercised over chemical units. These three chapters provide the basis for the employment and command and control of chemical units on the battlefield. To fully understand the principles of employing chemical units on the battlefield, the reader must read and understand each of these chapters in order.

The role and functions of the chemical staff are discussed throughout the manual. Chapter 1 discusses the organization of the various chemical staffs in the Army. Appendix D provides a detailed explanation of the duties and responsibilities of the chemical staff officers and NCOs. The various chemical organizations are discussed in Chapter 1 with more detail on their structure and equipment authorizations in Appendix A.

How chemical units are employed during operations across the range of military operations is discussed in Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8. Chemical staff considerations are also discussed in detail in these chapters.

Chemical staffs and units could be the difference in winning or losing on the battlefield. This is accomplished by combining current NBC doctrine, defense equipment and skills with technical expertise. Through proper employment, chemical staffs and units will allow commanders to make timely decisions, maximize their combat power, and minimize the degradative effects of NBC contamination.

The commander must rely on his chemical staff for information on--

- The enemy's NBC weapon capabilities and intent for use.
- Ways to minimize the effects of NBC contamination.
- Available chemical unit assets, support capabilities they possess, and proper employment.

Additionally, this manual provides commanders at all levels information concerning how chemical units are commanded, controlled, employed, and sustained on the battlefield.